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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



---

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of  
Health

For the Year 1947.

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DRIFFIELD RURAL DISTRICT.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

**for 1947.**

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Officers of the Sanitary Authority.

The Clerk	....	....	....	....	Mr. R. B. TOLLETT
Sanitary Inspector & Building Surveyor					F. H. MARGERRISON. Cert. R., San. I. M.S.I.A.
Medical Officer of Health	....				ALAN MILNER, M.B., Ch.B.

To the Chairman & Members of the Driffield Rural District Council  
Mr. Chairman Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit to you my Annual Report for 1947. The health of the population in General was very good. No infectious epidemics of note occurred and despite a very cold winter and a shortage of coal in most houses, no increase in respiratory diseases was noticeable.

The conditions of many cottages deteriorates rapidly and the new houses erected have, as yet, had no effect on the housing situation in general.

Sections B, C and D, have been compiled by the Sanitary Inspector.

**Section A.****VITAL STATISTICS.**

Area	....	....	....	....	....	98,423 acres
Estimated Population	....	....	....	....	....	9,856
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	....	£32,690
Product of a Penny Rate	....	....	....	....	....	£130/1/10

**BIRTHS.****Live Births.**

				Total	M.	F.
1. Total Births	....	....	....	199	100	99
2. Legitimate	....	....	....	189	93	96
3. Illegitimate	....	....	....	10	7	3

**Still Births.**

1. Total	....	....	....	7	4	3
2. Legitimate	....	....	....	5	3	2
3. Illegitimate	....	....	....	2	1	1

**Deaths.**

1. All ages	....	....	....	122	59	63
2. Infants under 1 year	....	....	....	9	4	5
Legitimate	....	....	....	8	3	5
Illegitimate	....	....	....	1	1	0

Birth Rate	....	....	....	20.1	per 1000 population.
Illegitimate Birth Rate	....	....	....	1.2	per 1000 population.
Stillbirth Rate	....	....	....	33.9	per 1000 Births.
Death Rate	....	....	....	12.3	per 1000 population.
Death Rate. Infants under 1 year	....	....	....	.91	per 1000 population.
Infantile Mortality Rate	....	....	....	45.1	per 1000 Live Births

**Causes of Death.**

						M.	F.
Tuberculosis of Resp. System	....	....	....	....	....	—	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	....	—	1
Cancer	....	....	....	....	....	—	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	....	....	....	....	....	—	1
Cancer of Breast	....	....	....	....	....	—	1
Cancer of all other sites	....	....	....	....	....	3	5
Diabetes	....	....	....	....	....	—	2
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	....	....	....	....	....	13	7
Heart Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	16	13
Other Diseases of Circulatory Systems	....	....	....	....	....	3	2
Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	....	2	2
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	....	3	2
Other Resp. Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	2	—

### 3.

Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	....	....	....	1	—
Digestive Diseases	....	....	....	—	2
Nephritis	....	....	....	—	1
Puerperal and Post Abort. Sepsis	....	....	....	—	1
Premature Birth	....	....	....	3	2
Congenital malformation birth mj. infant dis.	....	....	....	—	1
Suicide	....	....	....	1	—
Violent Causes	....	....	....	2	2
All other Causes	....	....	....	10	13

## Section B.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### Water Supply.

Generally speaking, the water supply of the district may be said to be good both in quality and quantity.

With the exception of the villages of Brigham, Harpham and Watton, and isolated houses and farms on the fringe of the district and those beyond reach of the mains, a piped supply provides the needs of the area.

The piped supply scheme, with its pumping and booster stations and reservoirs, is owned and operated by the Council under supervision by the Engineer and Manager, C. B. Newton, Esq., M.Inst., C.E., F.G.S., of Hull.

The main Pumping Station is sited to the west of Hutton village and on the north side of the road to Southburn leading from the main Driffeld-Beverley road. This Pumping Station was opened in 1940 and has a resident superintendent whose house is sited within the pumping Station area.

An Auxiliary Pumping Station, which is the old Nafferton (Local) Waterworks brought into operation again, is sited at Nafferton Wold and augments the supply to the "Eastern" side of the district.

For the purposes of supply the district is divided into Two Areas: (a) the "Western Area," which is the higher or "Wolds" part and includes the parishes of Bainton, Cottam (excepting Cottam R.A.F. Station), Fimber, Fridaythorpe, Garton, Kirkburn, Langtoft, Middleton, North Dalton, Sledmere, Tibthorpe and Wetwang; and (b) the "Eastern Area," the flat part of the district, which includes the parishes of Beeford, Foston (excepting Brigham village), Harpham (excepting Harpham village but including Lowthorpe and Ruston Parva), Hutton Cranswick, Kelk, Kilham, Nafferton, North Frodingham, Skerne (which includes Wansford), and the Cottam R.A.F. Station.



The Supply at the Main, or Hutton Pumping Station is obtained from two boreholes 86 feet deep, sited within the pump-house building, and is chlorinated at the source by means of a "Wallace and Tiernan's" set of equipment. The water is lifted and forced through the mains by electrically driven pumps and boosters. Division of the district into two areas necessitates the provision of two distinct sets of pumping equipment, each of which is in duplicate.

For the "Western Area," there are Three Pressure Head Reservoirs, sited at "Summit," "Towthorpe," and "Collingwood." The supply of water goes out from the Hutton Pumping Station, by rising main which serves also as service main, and is delivered direct into the "Summit" Reservoir. In the cases of "Towthorpe" and "Collingwood" there are Booster Stations at Wetwang and Garton through which supplies are respectively boosted into these reservoirs. Each Booster set is in duplicate.

For the "Eastern Area" there is only one Pressure Head Reservoir, at Nafferton Wold, on the site of the Old Nafferton Waterworks. The rising main from Hutton Pumping Station is connected directly to feed this reservoir and Auxiliary means are provided whereby the supply from the old Nafferton Waterworks well is pumped into the reservoir to augment the supply to this "Eastern Area." The Cottam R.A.F. Station, and farms en route, are supplied from the Nafferton Reservoir through a Booster Station sited close to the Reservoir. The Booster sets are in duplicate, operated by crude oil engine power. The well pump also is operated by crude oil engine, this however is not in duplicate and there is no stand-by in case of breakdown. The well is 216 feet deep and is bored a further 50 feet. Chlorination of this source of supply by a "Wallace and Tiernan's" set of equipment, was put into operation during the later part of the year.

I have previously remarked on the fact that the villages of Brigham, Harpham and Watton, are not provided with water supply mains. The Council's Mains water is laid on to the Cranswick R.A.F. Station at Watton but is supplied as to a private user. The three villages named still rely on hand pumps of the old type and, together with isolated houses and farms, are still in need of the

facilities enjoyed in the more fortunate populous areas. This fact is not lost sight of by the Water Committee and many schemes for extensions are under consideration, particularly the "Northern Boundary" Scheme for supply of isolated farms in this area.

A further 99 connections have been made to the Council's Mains and include for: dwelling-houses (69), farms (10), Small-holdings (3), Field supplies (9), Garage (1), Cemetery (1), Factory (1), Garden Supply (1), Shops (3), and Railway Station (1); five connections were made also for building purposes in connection with the erection of Council Houses at North Frodingham, Wansford, Nafferton, Skerne, and Cranswick. The estimated number (2,367) of houses affecting 8,390 of the population taking their supplies from the mains includes all those supplied from public stand-taps.

During the year 26 samples of water from mains and private supplies have been forwarded to the Clinical Research Association, Ltd., for bacteriological examination. 17 of the samples were routine samples taken from various points on the Council's Mains system, the reports on which were all satisfactory. Of the other 9 the reports on 4 were unsatisfactory, and in respect of these 2 repeat samples were taken and the reports on them were satisfactory. In the case of one other unsatisfactory report the use of the rainwater cistern in question was discontinued and water taken from the Council's main. Regarding the fourth case a supply is obtained by carrying it a distance of 360 yards to an isolated house, and the question of this supply is being considered by the owner and his Agent.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

My Annual Report for the year 1937 sets out in detail the character and general efficiency or inefficiency of the Drainage and Sewerage of the district, and the position remains substantially the same. The whole of the existing sewers need revision, the outfalls are out-of-date and are not equal to the work required of them. In other large villages where no definite sewerage and sewage disposal is provided there is urgent need for some definite action being taken to put into effect the schemes prepared for the Council by D. H. Moore, Esq., B.Sc., A.M.Inst., C.E., of Scarborough, the Council's Consulting Engineer,

The usual work of a routine nature has been carried out by the Council's workmen under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector's Assistant. Each of the Outfalls have received the required attention and the open drains, which serve as "Disposals" from the covered drains from villages which discharge into them, have been cleaned out in order to remove sewage deposits from them.

As I have repeatedly pointed out, proper Sewerage and Sewage Disposal is necessary if satisfactory conditions regarding this service are to be obtained. With a "mains" water supply available, the demand is for a water carriage system whereby installation of water closets can be effected, but the existing systems are either totally inadequate or unable to deal with faecal matter. Some of the larger villages are without any means of sewage disposal and have to rely solely on open drains for this purpose. In many instances private septic tanks with filters are installed to deal with soil drainage; this method of disposal is adopted in isolated places and is recommended, providing there is sufficient fall to give efficient filtration.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

The conversion of pail closets and privy middens to W.C.'s proceeds very slowly. As stated under "Drainage and Sewerage" the urge is for the water carriage system and installation of water closets but this cannot be undertaken owing to lack of facilities for sewage disposal, particularly of solids. Conversions undertaken were all carried out privately and each proposal had to be carefully considered as to ultimate disposal.

In connection with the Housing Programme water closets are being installed in all cases and, where there is no system of sewerage and sewage disposal, sewage is being dealt with in Septic Tanks and Filters.

The approximate numbers of the various types of accommodation at the end of the year were 381 W.C.'s, 2,306 Pail Closets and 381 Privy Middens. As previously stated, very little progress has been made in the conversions from "Conservancy" to "Water Carriage" system of removal of faecal matter, the chief obstacle of course being the lack of proper sewerage and sewage disposal facilities.

### **Scavenging and Cleansing.**

There is no change in the position regarding scavenging of the district. The same procedure still obtains and all this type of work is carried out by hired vehicles.



Nafferton continues to be the only village where the collection of "Night Soil" is undertaken. This work is carried out by contract and contents of all pail closets and the five privy middens are collected by the Contractor and disposed of by him on land for manurial purposes. The pail closets are cleared weekly and privy middens quarterly or oftener if required.

The cleansing of pail closets, privies, and ashpits, in the remainder of the district is the responsibility of the householders, and this fact is to be deplored. In many instances the amount of land available for disposal by digging in is very limited and, with repetition of this procedure over many years, the land is "sewage sick."

The Council have no facilities for undertaking a service of cleansing of cesspools and this duty falls on the householder concerned.

At the Driffeld R.A.F. Station, situate in this Rural District, a bi-weekly collection is made from the dust bins on the Station. This work has been carried out by hired vehicles and the material collected has been disposed of by tipping in the Nafferton Wold Chalk Pit.

Collection of Indestructible Household Refuse from the whole of the district is undertaken, and is carried out by hired vehicles. The district is divided into eight areas or groups of villages, each of which is visited on either the first, second, third or fourth Thursdays or Friday of each month.. By this arrangement each village is visited and cleared once at least in every month. All material collected is conveyed to and disposed of by tipping in the Nafferton Wold Chalk Pit.

### **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

The Tabular Statement given below sets out the number and nature of inspections made, the types of premises visited, the purposes for which premises were visited, action taken and results of such action.

	Inspections.	No. in District.
Houses—for Rural Housing Survey	323	2640
		(under £20 R.V.)
Houses—for all purposes except R.H.S. 151)		
Houses—Subsequent visits	... 37)	2778

Drainage Works—all types of premises	59	
Water Supplies—all types of premises	27	
Shops, other than Meat Shops ....	61	44
Meat Shops, Stalls, etc. ....	165	
Food Inspection ....	47	
Ice Cream premises ....	9	1
Cowsheds and Dairies ....	291	533
Knackers Yards ....	14	1
Rats and Mice Destruction ....	22	
Informal Action (Houses) ....		91
Informal Action (Cowsheds and Dairies) ....		43
Informal Action complied with (Houses) ....		90
Informal Action complied with (Cowsheds and Dairies) ....		43
Nuisances found and remedied ....		23
Houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ....		53
Houses found overcrowded during year ....		9
Houses overcrowded at end of year ....		56
Houses disinfected after Infectious Diseases ....		2
Houses disinfested for vermin ....		2
Privies converted to Pail Closets ....		6
Privies converted to W.C.'s ....		7
Pail Closets converted to W.C.'s ....		38
Cesspools abolished ....		19
New Houses built by Council ....		12
New Houses built by Private Enterprise ....		-
New Houses in course of erection for Council ....		32
New Houses in course of erection by Private Enterprise ....		5
Water Samples sent for Full Bacteriological Examination		9
Water Samples sent for Limited Bacteriological Examination		17
Unsatisfactory reports on Water Samples—Full ....		4
Unsatisfactory reports on Water Samples—Limited ....		-

### **Shops and Offices.**

No action has been taken under either the Shops Act, 1934, or the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of Shops and Offices.

### **Camping Sites.**

There are no Camping Sites in the Area and no Licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 have been issued.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in the district, either public or private.

### **Eradication of Bed-Bugs.**

None of the Council Houses were found to be infested. Two private houses however were reported, and on inspection found to be infested with this pest. Double disinfection was carried out in both cases, both of which proved successful in eradicating the pests.

### **Schools.**

No action has been taken by the Council regarding Water Supply and Sanitary Accommodation to Schools. Most of these premises have a laid-on water supply, and the Education Authority is alive to the requirements needed in respect of sanitary accommodation, and this matter is receiving that Authority's consideration.

### **Section C.**

## **HOUSING.**

The provision of completed Council Houses has relieved the housing situation slightly and those in course of erection will do much to alleviate the needs where these are being built. There is still a demand, and the Housing Committee of the Council realising this, is making every effort to provide the necessary accommodation.

The repair of existing houses has proceeded so far as labour and materials have been available.

As set out in the foregoing Tabular Statement, the Council has completed 12 houses for occupation at Beeford (8) and North Frodingham (4). A further 32 are under construction, some nearing completion, at North Frodingham (4), Wansford (4), Skerne (2), Nafferton (10) and Hutton Cranswick (12), whilst a further 16 at Hutton Cranswick, 20 at Middleton, 8 at North Dalton, 4 at Watton, 8 at Kilham, 4 at Ruston Parva, and 6 at Langtoft make up the Programme of 110 houses to the end of the year under review.

No houses have been completed by Private Enterprise but one house and four bungalows are under construction.

No conversions or adaptations in respect of any properties has been undertaken by the Council,

The provision of Prefabricated Houses, either temporary or permanent, or of Swedish Houses, has not been undertaken by either the Council or Private Enterprise.

Regarding Statutory action. Under the conditions of acute housing shortage prevailing, it has not been advisable to take action under either Housing or Public Health Acts, and no Statutory Notices have been served.

Overcrowding does occur, and is bound to, owing to the acute shortage of houses. 9 further cases were found during the year and 56 cases remained at the end of the year, affecting 83 families and 346 persons. Completion of the houses now in course of erection will relieve quite a lot of this.

Work on the Rural Housing Survey was continued, and during the year 323 houses were inspected and categorised. At the end of the year 1,491 houses had been dealt with out of the 2,640 which come under the £20 rateable value. The following table shows, in detail, the progress made in this work up to the end of the year:—

No. of houses in district, 2,778; No. under £20 Rateable Value, 2,640.							
At end of Year:	No. of inspections:	Categories.					Found
		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	overcrowded
1946	1168	119	154	500	-	395	47
1947	323	49	94	108	6	66	9
Total:—	1491	168	248	608	6	461	56

It should be noted that Category 4 in the above table was included for houses which are suitable for dealing with under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act. This category has not been used in building up the table, but as the information is now asked for by the Rural Housing Advisory Committee the number in Category 5 will be much reduced when a revision has been made.



**Section D.****FOOD.****Milk Supply.**

The national effort, through the War Agricultural Executive Committee, the County Council, and the Public Health Department of this Council is still maintained, in order to bring about an increased milk production, and the liason between the Officers of these three Authorities has continued on the same satisfactory co-operative basis.

Improvements to Cowsheds and Dairies have been carried out and many farm buildings, not previously used in the production of milk, have been converted into excellent accommodation for this purpose. The facilities provided by the Council's water mains is a great incentive to the desire for modern and hygienic methods of milk production.

At the end of the year there were 533 Dairies and Cowsheds on the register. In consequence of 291 inspections, informal action was taken in 43 instances in respect of contraventions of the Milk and Dairies Order, 21 for cleansing 19 for structural defects and 3 for utensils, all of which were remedied.

**Meat and Other Foods.**

The Central Slaughter-house for the Area is in the Driffeld Urban District. No slaughtering is carried out in the Rural District. The twelve butchers in the Rural District collect their meat from the Central Slaughter-house and retail it from their own premises chiefly by their own vans. Driffeld butchers also retail meat, by vans, in the Rural District.

Shops, vehicles, and places where food is prepared have received attention and 165 inspections have been made. The premises have all been found well kept and clean and no action has been necessary.

Unsound foodstuffs found, have been condemned and surrendered or replaced by manufacturers and include 216 lbs. of various meat in tins, 58 lbs. of bacon, 39 lbs. of butter, and 8 lbs. of cheese; a total of 321 lbs.

**CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING.**

During the year licences were issued as under:—

In respect of:	No. of Licences:	No. of Houses:	Amount:
New Houses ....	3	3	£3,220
Conversions or Adaptions ....	6	Addnl. 7 Units	£3,345
Repairs, etc.:			
Housing ....	214	214	£18,049
Other premises ....	131	-	£7,599
	<hr/> 354	<hr/> 224	<hr/> £32,213

**Section E.****INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

The following cases were notified in 1947:—

	Civilian	Services & P.O.W.
Measles ....	10	0
Whooping Cough ....	3	0
Chicken Pox ....	30	1
Erysipelas ....	2	0
Pneumonia ....	4	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ....	1	0
Ophthalmia Nistratorum ....	1	0
Acute Polismyilitis ....	1	0

**Tuberculosis.**

Five cases were notified. 3 being Tuberculosis of the lungs, and 2 of the glands.

I have to thank the Clerk and Sanitary Inspector for their help in compiling this report.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

Nafferton.

ALAN MILNER, M.B.



